

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 SP-02

AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04

OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 INT-05 GSA-01 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 /085 W

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O 021237Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6303

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 0929

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CG, EINV, EMIN,

SUBJECT: DIFFICULTIES WITH SMTF WIND-DOWN

REF: KINSHASA 704, KINSHASA 612

1. JAN. 30 SMTF KINSHASA REP. WINDHAM-BELLORD CAME TO EMBASSY TO DESCRIBE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN SHABA ON SMTF WIND-DOWN. FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS OVER LAST TWO WEEKS WITH GOZ OFFICIALS IN KINSHASA AND SHABA, IT HAD APPEARED THAT PERSONNEL DISMISSALS AND RELATED ACTIONS COULD BE INITIATED FORTHWITH. OPERATING ON THAT ASSUMPTION, SMTF LAUNCHED INTO DISMISSAL PROGRAM ON FIVE THOUSAND LOCAL EMPLOYEES, AS WELL AS ON SEVERAL HUNDRED EX-PATRIATES, ON JAN. 29.

2. JAN. 30 SAW TWO REACTIONS: (A) IN MORNING, GROUP SAID TO COMPRISE SEVERAL THOUSAND DISMISSED LOCAL EMPLOYEES AND FAMILY MEMBERS APPEARED AT SMTF FACILITIES TO PROTEST. MINOR SCUFFLING WAS REPORTED WHEN MILITARY WAS CALLED IN TO DISPERSE THE CROWD. (B) LATER SAME DAY,
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REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, CLAIMING AUTHORITY OF CABLE

FROM PRESIDENT MOBUTU IN KISANGANI (SINCE PROVEN INCORRECT), ORDERED SMTF TO CEASE DISMISSALS AND REINSTATE STHOSE ALREADY DISMISSED.

3. WE NOW LEARN THAT ASPECT OF PROBLEM MOST LIKELY TO CAUSE SHORT-RUN DIFFICULTIES IN USG/GOZ CONTEXT IS PROHIBITION OF DEPARTURE OF RIFFED EXPATRIATES. TWENTY-EIGHT EXPATRIATES CURRENTLY IN LUBUMBASHI AWAITING TRANSPORTATION OUT. THEY HAVE BEEN PREVENTED THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND FROM PROCEEDING TO AIRPORT. OF THESE TWENTY-EIGHT, TWENTY-ONE ARE AMERICANS; OF THE TWENTY-ONE, FOURTEEN ARE WOMEN AND CHILDREN. ACCORDING COUNSEL MARKS, LUBUMBASHI, SEVERAL ARE PRESENTLY ATTEMPTING CONTACT CONGRESSMEN, SENATORS OR REPORTERS IN THE US.

4. SMTF OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT EQUITY PARTNERS LIKELY TO REACT HARSHLY IF GOZ PERSISTS IN DEMAND THAT SMTF KEEP UNNEEDED EMPLOYEES ON PAYROLL.

5. AS OF THIS WRITING, WE UNDERSTAND THAT SMTF OFFICIALS LUBUMBASHI HAVE BEEN SUMMONED TO REGIONAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE. WE WILL REPORT RESULTS OF THAT MEETING ASAP. MEANWHILE, DCM HAS BEEN FOLLOWING UP WITH BISENGIMANA AND LARRY DEVLIN TRYING TO SEE PRESIDENT MOBUTU WHO DUE BACK KINSHASA TODAY, FEB. 2.

6. STAY TUNED.
CUTLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNEMPLOYMENT, SMFT, ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KINSHA00929
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760038-0856
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760292/aaaadcxq.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KINSHASA 704, 76 KINSHASA 612
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <06 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIFFICULTIES WITH SMTF WIND-DOWN
TAGS: EINV, EMIN, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006